

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-23 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 24 and 25 have been added to the application. The new claims are directed to previous claims 6 and 7, rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by TOSOH (JP 08-325526) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 24, and claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 25.

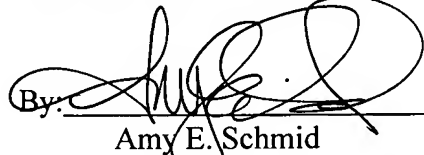
Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the grounds of objection and rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Takehiko SAWABE et al.

By: 

Amy E. Schmid
Registration No. 55,965
Attorney for Applicants

AES/aas:emj
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
April 2, 2009